

SAN JUAN COUNTY.

One of the Richest Parts of New Mexico and a Tributary to the Las Vegas, Mora & Faos Railway.

San Juan county is situated in the northwest corner of the Territory, is about 100 miles square, the southern portion being given to stock grazing, as there is not sufficient water supply for farming purposes. In the northern part of the county are the three large and beautiful valleys, San Juan, Abiquay, and La Plata, and along the sunny course of these live some 4,000 people, contented, prosperous, and happy.

The county is, in a commercial sense, at present, part of Colorado, as all of its business affairs are transacted in Durango, Colorado, the nearest railroad connection, which is from twenty to fifty miles distant from the different parts of the county, with good wagon road connection.

NATURAL RESOURCES.

The greatest natural blessings enjoyed by the county are, first: The abundance of rich agricultural and horticultural lands, with a bountiful supply of water for irrigating them. These lands are, in character, a deep mellow loam, sandy enough to work nicely under nearly all conditions and yielding a rich harvest to those who till them. These lands are most wonderfully adapted to fruit growing, there being in their composition to a remarkable extent those elements of the earth most conducive to the growth of trees.

The rivers coming directly from the snowy mountains of Colorado, in huge torrents would, in addition to supplying the farms with abundant water for irrigating and domestic purposes, afford power enough to turn a million wheels. The channels of the streams are so well paved by nature, however, that no damage is ever done to the farms or other interests lying along their borders.

There are in the county large areas of timber of the cedar and pinon varieties, which are extensively used in the improvement of the farms and for fuel, but for lumber the county is dependent upon the pine forests of southwestern Colorado.

San Juan county has within its borders the most extensive coal fields in the west, which are at the present time very meagerly developed. In the western part of the county are veins of handsome peacock coal, varying in thickness from one foot to twenty feet, and they extend from the San Juan river in a northeast direction to the Colorado line, a distance of more than fifteen miles, continuing to Durango, Colorado, fifteen or twenty miles further. Chief Engineer Wigglesworth, of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad, pronounced it the best steam producing coal ever discovered. The supply is inexhaustible.

SAN JUAN CLIMATE.

The climate of San Juan county is almost one continuous measure of sunshine, when its part of the globe is turned towards nature's source of heat, light and life. The heat of summer is never oppressive, the temperature rarely going above ninety degrees, while the winters are barely cold enough to be conducive to good health. One of nature's peculiarities in the climatic conditions of San Juan county is the mountain draught, which sweeps down through the valleys every night. Whatever of noxious gases or impure air is generated by the sunshine of day, is swept entirely away by the gentle, cool breeze from the snowy mountains at night. Thus by nature's system of renovation in the atmosphere kept pure and refreshing, a fact to which those afflicted with pulmonary diseases should give particular attention.

FAMOUS ORCHARDS.

The most noted branch of San Juan county's productiveness is its fine fruit,

which is rapidly acquiring a national reputation. A large part of last season's crop of apples was shipped to eastern markets, to supply the wants of the fastidious trade, and they were universally appreciated wherever shown. There are about 1,000 acres of orchard now of bearing age, with perhaps as much more that is yet too young to produce any fruit to speak of.

The principal fruit grown in this county is winter apples, which have often been pronounced the finest ever grown. There are, however, an almost endless number of kinds and varieties including some semi-tropical productions, and there is nothing grown in the fruit line in San Juan county that does not rank the highest in quality. Although the fruit sometimes falls here, on account of freezing, there is less liability to loss on that account than in any other of the inter-mountain regions.

ITS STOCKGROWING.

No part of the great west is as peculiarly adapted to the raising of all kinds of stock as San Juan county. The scope of range territory is large, including the whole region except those parts of the valleys that are fenced for farming purposes. The stock of this region range along the mountain slopes of southwestern Colorado during the summer months, where excellent pasture in abundance is found. In winter stock return to this county. The people of San Juan county are devoting special attention to stock-raising. There are now within the borders of the county more than 200,000 head of sheep, besides many thousands of cattle and horses. Hogs make an excellent growth here ranging on alfalfa pasture and in the orchards, and are, in a small way, about the most profitable department of the stockraising business for the farmer.

The future prospects for San Juan county were never brighter than now. With the completion of the Animas River Land and Irrigation's big ditch, the opening of thousands of acres of new land to cultivation and the incoming of hundreds of families seeking homes, a great change will have been made in the industrial aspect of our county. The completion of the ditch means the addition of a large area to our orchards and fields and the influx of home seekers means a large addition to our wealth producing energy. An increased consumption will be made for our products and our exports will be enlarged by the toiling hands that come here to labor among us. New industries will be added to our local prosperity and the whole county will forge ahead, as the banner county of the Territory. More schools will spring up in our midst and more children will be added to those we already have. Our list of taxpaying citizens will be largely augmented and many other benefits derived from the general advance. There are many industries and enterprising propositions awaiting development here and we feel confident that the forthcoming season will show a wonderful change in many things. We want more good, hard working, intelligent people to come here and locate among us, and to such we have more and better inducements to offer than any other section of the Great West." E. D. SHARP.

A Good Suggestion.

Francis Tracy Tobin, attorney and counselor at law, 906 Walnut street, Philadelphia, Pa., has sent to the Secretary of the Navy, the following letter: Hon. John Davis Long, Secretary of the Navy.

PHILADELPHIA, March 24, 1898.—I would most respectfully suggest, that in naming the new war vessels for the navy of the United States, you would name one of them New Mexico.

The Territory of New Mexico is entitled to such an honor, occupying as she does, the most prominent and important place, as a Territory, owing to her importance in wealth, size and

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intelligence. New Mexico is larger than the states of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio; her people are law abiding and progressive; and she is destined, soon to take her place in the sisterhood of States; and when she does, she will be one of the brightest jewels in the diadem of States, which bind and cement our union. Her people by their intelligence and industry, have been pushing her to the front ranks. No man can tell the future of this gem of the west—New Mexico.

In selecting the names for the great and mighty war vessels, the defenders of the nation, and of the dear old flag, the stars and stripes, let one of them, bear the name of New Mexico; and if it does, and the flag of the union is floating over that vessel, called New Mexico, she will be found in the thick of the fight, defending and maintaining the honor of the United States, and the flag of the union; and the record of the war vessel, New Mexico, will be one of credit, honor and glory.

Hoping and trusting, you may name one of the war vessels, New Mexico.

Respectfully,
FRANCIS TRACY TOBIN.

Mrs. Harriet Felton, one of the two real "Daughters of the Revolution" in Michigan, was recently presented with a gold spoon by the Michigan chapter. Her father was Joel Bishop, one of Washington's soldiers.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO,
LUCAS COUNTY.

FRANK J. CHENEY makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. CHENEY & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of CATARRH that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

FRANK J. CHENEY.
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1896.

A. W. GLEASON,
Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. and for testimonials, free. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Sold by Druggist, 75c. Toledo, O. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

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It has become sadly apparent that this country, under its present government, would not engage in a war with Spain, even if the Spaniards should come on our own territory and slap our jaws. If there is a lower depth of pusillanimous weakness than that to which we have now descended, for God's sake let some one point it out, that we may at once hide ourselves there, from the merited contempt of mankind.

ALASKA, its Waters, Land and Life, an illustrated lecture by John E. Bennett, published by the Myself-Rollins Co., San Francisco, Cal., has been laid on THE OPTIC's table. The price is 25c; and this paper would advise all those thinking of going to the northern El Dorado, and in fact all those interested in that land of marvelous attractions and hardships, to send to the publishers for a copy.

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